

CLAIMS OF THE INVENTION

1. A method for removing a circumferential portion of a hollow body organ from a patient using a circular stapling instrument comprising the steps of:

providing said circular stapling instrument comprising:

a stapling head assembly having an outer housing with an inner chamber, a stapler driver received in said housing, a cutting blade mounted within said driver, and a means for generally evacuating said housing;

an anvil assembly movable from an open position spaced from said housing to a closed position adjacent to said housing;

inserting said head assembly and said anvil assembly into said hollow body organ with said anvil assembly in said open position;

positioning said head and anvil within said hollow organ such that a portion of the side wall of said organ is located between said head and said anvil;

activating said means for evacuating sufficiently to draw a section of said side wall portion into said space between said head and said anvil and into said inner chamber;

moving said anvil assembly from said open position spaced from said head assembly to said closed position adjacent to said head assembly so as to clamp said drawn side wall section therebetween;

firing said circular stapling instrument so as to transect and staple said hollow body organ; and

deactivating said evacuating means;

removing said head and anvil assemblies from said patient so as to remove said transected drawn section of said hollow body organ from said patient.